

From: John Yunker
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/11/02 10:07pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I must protest the terms of the Microsoft Settlement. The current wording of the settlement codifies the right of Microsoft to control access to information by private individuals. The settlement must be changed to specifically grant the right to interface with the microsoft platform to authorize, get, and put information. Certain specifications, such as the root file system, cannot be subject to license because this would restrict access to a basic public infrastructure.

The information infrastructure is just as important to society as the energy, water, and communications infrastructure.

The standards for hooking together basic public infrastructure MUST be available to society at large for the effective evolution of our society.

No one can dispute that access to information is a basic part of modern public infrastructure. The ability to build an interface to my information store is a basic public right.

As long as they have an effective monopoly on private information platform (non-commercial) they cannot use that position to exclude any class of society from being able to build components of the information infrastructure, e.g. they must make key interface specifications public and not subject to license. They can make specific technology used in providing a service subject to license, but not the service itself, nor the specification of interfaces to those services.

Thank you,
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